

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a liquid-retentive absorbing layer, a liquid-impermeable leakproof layer, and standing gathers on each side of said article which have an upright portion and an elastically extensible portion coming into planar contact with a wearer's skin while worn, ~~said~~ each elastically extensible portion being substantially parallel to said absorbing layer and ~~said~~ each upright portion extending between ~~one of said absorbing layer and~~ a portion near a corresponding longer side edge of said absorbing layer and a corresponding one of said elastically extensible ~~portion~~ portions before being worn, wherein ~~said~~ each elastically extensible portion is made of a sheet and at least one elastic member, said elastic member being fixed to said sheet, which is planar, discretely in the longitudinal direction thereof in its stretched state, and the parts of said sheet where said elastic member is not fixed are raised by contraction of said elastic member to form a plurality of hollow ridges parallel to each other on a side of said elastically extensible portion to be brought into contact with the wearer's skin in a linear manner along the contraction direction of said elastic member, said hollow ridges each extending across the contraction direction of said

elastic member; wherein said absorbent article is substantially oblong, said standing gathers are provided along the respective longer sides of said absorbent article, and said plurality of ridges are a large number of ridges formed across ~~the~~ a width of a corresponding one of said elastically extensible portions ~~portion~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ each upright portion connects to a middle in a width direction of a corresponding one of said elastically extensible portions ~~portion~~.

4. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article having a substantially oblong shape and comprising a liquid-retentive absorbing layer, a liquid-impermeable leakproof sheet, and standing gathers which are provided on ~~each~~ respective longer ~~side~~ sides of said article and each have an upright portion and an elastically extensible portion coming into planar contact with a wearer's skin while worn, ~~said~~ each elastically extensible portion being substantially parallel to said absorbing layer and ~~said~~ each upright portion extending between ~~one of said absorbing layer and a~~ portion near a corresponding longer side edge of said absorbing

layer and a corresponding one of said elastically extensible ~~portion~~ portions before being worn, wherein ~~said~~ each elastically extensible portion is made of a fiber aggregate containing at least one elastic member and has a large number of ridges formed on its side to be brought into contact with the wearer's skin across the width thereof, said fiber aggregate forming said ridges having a lower density than fiber aggregate forming valleys between every adjacent ridges; wherein said fiber aggregate containing said at least one elastic member is composed of two fiber aggregate layers and said at least one elastic member, and both of said two fiber aggregate layers protrude toward the wearer's skin when worn.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein ~~said fiber aggregate containing at least one elastic member is composed of two fiber aggregate layers and at least one elastic member interposed between said two fiber aggregate layers, and said fiber aggregate has compressed parts and non-compressed parts or weakly compressed parts that have been compressed under a weaker pressure than imposed to form said compressed parts, said compressed parts and said non-compressed~~

part or weakly compressed parts alternating, said non-compressed parts or weakly compressed parts corresponding to said ridges and said compressed parts corresponding to said valleys.

7. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 6, wherein said two fiber aggregate layers are thermally fused together in said compressed parts.

8. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein the line connecting the apices of said ridges is wavy in a longitudinal section of said elastically extensible portion.

9. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ each upright portion connects to a middle in a width direction of a corresponding one of said elastically extensible portions ~~portion~~.

10. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent article is fixed to underwear in use.

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Page 8 of 14

11. (Previously Presented) The absorbent article according to claim 4, wherein said absorbent article is fixed to underwear in use.